Please find below, Utah State Parks and Recreation news for April 6:

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- Utah State Parks Boating Safety Tip of the Week
- Youth Off-Highway Vehicle, Personal Watercraft Education Courses Now Available Online
- Upcoming Utah State Parks Events

## UTAH STATE PARKS BOATING SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK

**Salt Lake** —Whether you are boating for one day or multiple days, you should always file a float plan with details about where you are heading and when you expect to return. This information helps search and rescue crews in the event of an emergency.

Boating Education Specialist Chris Haller suggests the following float plan tips. For shorter daytime outings, a verbal float plan may be sufficient. At a minimum:

- Contact a responsible person who is not going on the trip, like a close friend or relative, and provide them with your float plan.
- Leave a telephone number of the local rescue authorities that should be contacted if you are overdue.
- If you plan to extend your time on the water, be sure to let your contact person know before your float plan expires. This avoids unnecessary contact of rescue authorities.

For extended outings, a written float plan is warranted. This plan should include:

- Description of the vessel, including make, size, color, bow number, and marine band call sign.
- Trip itinerary of where you are going with a detailed description of route and intended camping spots.
- List providing number of passengers, names, addresses, and contact information for each passenger in case of an emergency.
- The license plate number and description of the tow vehicle and trailer.

For more boating safety information or to take a safe boating course, visit stateparks.utah.gov. Utah Boaters...WEAR IT!

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**Salt Lake** – In an effort to meet the growing demands for off-highway vehicle (OHV) and personal watercraft (PWC) youth education courses, Utah State Parks has made classes available online at stateparks.utah.gov.

Cost for the OHV class is \$30 and covers ATVs, off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and side-by-side ATVs. The cost of the PWC course, which covers JetSki and SeaDootype boats is \$34.95, which includes a \$5 certification fee. Upon successful completion of the course, students print a temporary certificate valid for 60 days and later receive a permanent certificate by mail.

Students are strongly encouraged to thoroughly study all materials prior to taking the test. Students who do not pass the course, must pay a second registration fee and retake the test.

"Safety is our number one concern. We want to reduce the number of accidents by educating youth to operate ATVs and PWC safely and emphasize the importance of wearing safety equipment, and following laws and rules," stated OHV/PWC Education Coordinator Ann Evans. "Online courses provide easier access to education courses and allow students to learn at their own pace."

Utah law requires youth eight to 16 to complete the Utah State Parks *Know Before You Go!* OHV Education Course before operating a machine on public lands, roads or trails. It is illegal for any child under age eight to operate an OHV on public land.

Utah youth, 12 to 17 years of age, are required to complete and pass the Utah PWC Education Course in order to operate PWC (Jet Ski, Wave Runner, Sea-Doo) without an adult on board. Children who are younger than 12, may not operate a PWC without a responsible adult onboard.

Since the creation of the education courses, approximately 22,000 students have completed the PWC course and over 60,000 students have taken the OHV course.

For more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov, call (800) OHV-RIDE or (800) RIDE PWC.

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## UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

April 23 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab Geology of Dead Horse Point: Meet at the visitor center amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. for a program about the geology surrounding Dead Horse Point. Discover the processes that contributed to this incredible scenery. (435) 259-2614

April 24 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway

Living with Wildlife - Red Fox: Join the park naturalist from 10 a.m. to noon to learn about the lives of local wildlife. Program is free and everyone is welcome. (435) 654-1791

April 24 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse
Antelope Island Trail Project: Join Antelope Island Trail Patrol as they work on the
Mountain View Trail from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers should meet at
the Lower Frary parking area and bring a hat, shovel, and plenty of water. Event is
open to the public and volunteers are needed. <a href="mailto:chrisharamoto@utah.gov">chrisharamoto@utah.gov</a>

April 24 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding Rio Grande Hispanic Weaving: Join Dr. Laurie Webster from 10 a.m. to noon for a free presentation focusing on the history of Rio Grande Hispanic weaving in northern New Mexico, relationships to Saltillo textiles and other Mexican weaving traditions, and contemporary Rio Grande weaving. (435) 678-2238

April 24 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab Leapin' Lizards! Join the park naturalist at the visitor center amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. for a program about reptiles. Test your reptile knowledge, learn what lives here at Dead Horse Point and get inside the mind of a rattlesnake! This is a half-hour program. (435) 259-2614

April 24 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse History of Sheep Ranching on Antelope Island: Join us at Fielding Garr Ranch at 2 p.m. for an informative lecture on how Antelope Island's sheep industry influenced Utah's wool market. (801) 649-5742

April 25 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab Bats! Will you turn into a vampire if these animals bite you or go batty if one gets stuck in your hair? Join us at 7:30 p.m. at the visitor center amphitheater for a program about these rulers of the night. There will be a slide presentation, games and activities. (435) 259-2614

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